

skills, and who receive positive early interventions demonstrate academic progress, and are significantly less likely to be referred to special education;

Whereas the high cost of educating children with disabilities and the Federal Government's failure to fully meet its obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act drain school budgets, jeopardize the quality of education provided by local schools, and place a significant burden on State and local taxpayers;

Whereas if the appropriation for part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) exceeds \$4,924,672,200 for a fiscal year, the State funding formula will shift from one based solely on the number of children with disabilities in the State to one based on 85 percent of the children ages 3 to 21 living in the State and 15 percent based on children living in poverty in the State, enabling States to undertake good practices for addressing the learning needs of more children in the regular education classroom and reduce over identification of children who may not need to be referred to special education;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been successful in achieving significant increases in the number of children with disabilities who receive a free, appropriate public education;

Whereas the current level of Federal funding to States and localities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is contrary to the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a quality education; and

Whereas the Federal Government has failed to appropriate 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure per child with a disability as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to assist States and localities to educate children with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress and the President—

(1) should, working within the constraints of the balanced budget agreement, give programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) the highest priority among Federal elementary and secondary education programs by meeting the commitment to fund the maximum State grant allocation for educating children with disabilities under such Act prior to authorizing or appropriating funds for any new education initiative; and

(2) should meet the commitment described in paragraph (1) while retaining the commitment to fund existing Federal education programs that increase student achievement.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today, joined by many of my colleagues, I am submitting a Senate concurrent resolution calling for a delay in authorizing or appropriating of funds for new educational initiatives until we fully fund IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My colleague, Representative GOODLING, is introducing a companion resolution in the House today as well.

In 1975 Congress made a commitment to contribute up to 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure (APPE) for each child with a disability being educated by our Nation's schools. We are nowhere close to that target of 40 percent. We are committed to

achieving that target, and until we do reach the target, we should refrain from undertaking major new education commitments.

According to the latest estimates from the Department of Education, this school year there are 6.1 million children with disabilities being served by our Nation's schools. States and local communities are spending \$72.9 billion of non-federal dollars to educate these children. The federal contribution available to use in this school year is \$3.8 billion. That level of funding represents 10.8 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure for each child with a disability. That represents a mere \$635.83 per child. It's time to deliver on the missing 29.2 percent.

In a letter of March 24, 1999, the National School Boards Association urges us to increase funding for IDEA by \$2.1 billion a year for the next ten years. It reports that 38 cents of every new tax dollar is being spent on special education. Local school districts desperately need our help. If IDEA had been fully funded in fiscal year 1999, my State, Vermont, would have received \$20 million more than the \$5.7 million it will receive this July 1.

By putting our urge to create and fund new initiatives on hold and by focusing on increased funding for IDEA as our first priority, we will be giving relief to school districts, resources to teachers, hope to parents, and opportunities to children with disabilities.

Please join us in cosponsoring this important resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DOMENICI AMENDMENT NO. 252

Mr. DOMENICI proposed an amendment to the motion to instruct conferees proposed by Mr. KENNEDY to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009; as follows:

At the end add the following in the conference report;

(1) amendment #176, offered in the Senate by Senator Roth and Breaux, regarding Medicare reform; and

(2) Section 209 of the Senate-passed resolution, offered in the Budget Committee by Senator Snowe and Wyden, regarding the use of on-budget surpluses for a prescription drug benefit.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that a closed

hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This hearing is titled: "Damage to the National Security from Chinese Espionage at DOE Nuclear Weapons Laboratories."

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in room 219 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Those who wish further information may write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 1:45 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on welfare reform implementation in Indian country. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing previously announced has been rescheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 2 in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. has been canceled.

Alternatively, the hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 28, 1999, at 2 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 415, a bill to amend the Arizona Statehood and Enabling Act in order to protect the permanent trust funds of the State of Arizona from erosion due to inflation and modify the basis on which distributions are made from the funds, and S. 607, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Amie Brown or Mike Menge (202) 224-6170.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements in review of the fiscal year 2000 Defense Authorization Request and Future Years Defense program.